



2009

Northeast Family Strengthening Conference

***Empowering Families: Tools for healthy
marriage, responsible fatherhood and family
finances***

May 27th – 28th 2009

Providence Biltmore Hotel

Providence, RI

Conference Partners

DHHS Administration for Children and Families

African American Healthy Marriage Initiative

Children's Friend

Esperanza

Family First DC

Family Violence Prevention Fund

Greater Philadelphia Healthy Marriage Coalition

Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty

New Jersey Department of State Office of Faith Based Initiatives

New York State Fatherhood Initiative

Region II Head Start Association

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2009 Northeast Family Strengthening Conference. Our theme this year is, *Empowering Families: Tools for healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood and family finances*. This conference equips human service providers, state agency staff, and community and faith based leaders with information and tools to incorporate healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood and financial education in efforts to strengthen families and communities. Managing relationships, money and parenting responsibilities are significant challenges for families. The need for new ideas and effective strategies to empower families is critically important, especially in this era of belt-tightening and budget cuts.

Go to <http://www.empoweringfamilies2009.com> for current information.

Conference Location

The conference will take place at the historic Providence Biltmore Hotel - the "The Grand Dame of Providence". The Providence Biltmore is the epitome of charm and elegance. Located in the center of Rhode Island's capital, the hotel is in close proximity to all that the city has to offer.

A block of rooms has been reserved under the name Northeast Family Strengthening Conference. Our group rate is \$145/night plus 13% hotel tax. The room rate is available from May 23 through May 30, 2009 to accommodate an extended stay. All rooms are junior suites which offer 2 California king beds plus a half living room with a sofa bed. These rooms can comfortably accommodate several participants who want to share a room.

Please contact the Providence Biltmore Hotel directly at (800) 294-7709 or (401) 421-0700 to book room reservations. Be sure to request the group rate for the Northeast Family Strengthening Conference. The deadline for reservations at the conference rate is May 5, 2009.

Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance St., Providence, RI 02903
<http://www.providencebiltmore.com/>

Registration

The conference registration fee is \$145 whether you attend one or two days. This fee is non-refundable. Register online at: <http://www.empoweringfamilies2009.com>

May 27th

Conference Schedule Day 1

8-9 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9-10:15 am

Welcome and Opening Plenary

Trends in Family Strengthening

10:30-12:30 pm

Workshop Session 1

- a) **What's Working in Marriage and Relationship Education?** Learn about the field of marriage and relationship education and successful projects that reach fragile families, couples, single parents and individuals. Review current research on effective methods, program models and information about Web resources and tools.
- b) **Fundamentals of Family Finance-Where can I begin?** Money woes contribute to the deterioration of many personal relationships, especially in times like these. Learn about strategies, financial and credit literacy programs, and low-cost or free curricula and resources that are available to use with parents, families and communities.
- c) **Designing the Blueprint: Introduction to capacity building.** What do you need to help your organization thrive and survive? Learn how to develop your organization's ability to meet the needs of your community and sustain efforts.
- d) **Parenting as Partners.** Are you involved with a responsible fatherhood program, a marriage/relationship education program or parenting program working with families where there is a non-resident parent? Learn how to help parents develop the skills to resolve conflicts that arise when parents divide responsibilities for raising a child.

12:30-2:30 pm

Lunch and Panel

Beyond Blame

Explore the many reasons for fatherhood, healthy marriage/relationship and domestic violence programs to work together. Review the documentary, "Something My Father Would Do" developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund that features the lives of three men raised with abusive fathers who had to grapple with their choices as partners, husbands and fathers. Panel and discussion will follow.

2:45-4:45pm

Workshop Session 2

- e) **Keeping a Roof Overhead.** Permanent housing is an important element to strengthen and sustain families. Presentation explores options, resources, programs and local efforts to help families with home ownership and rental challenges.
- f) **Cultural Issues in Marriage and Family Strengthening.** Increase your cultural competency in working with couples and parents on relationship, family or financial issues. Review relationship and financial curricula as well as adaptations programs have made to effectively reach ethnic populations.
- g) **Going Hi Def: Perceptions of fathers in the media.** This workshop explores the images, messages and portrayals of fathers in television and other media. View a new DVD featuring Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and discuss how programs can use this tool to stimulate conversations that help address critical issues of family and fatherhood.
- h) **Growing Your Organization: Staff development.** Find out why it is important for staff to understand the benefits of your Healthy Marriage or Responsible Fatherhood services and how these programs support your organization's mission and related priorities. Discover how organizations tackle issues of motivating and training staff as well as program assessment.

May 28th

Conference Schedule Day 2

8-9 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9-10:15 am

Day 2 Plenary

Fatherhood in the Lives of Low-Income Men

10:30-12:30 pm

Workshop Session 1

- a) **Nail It Down: Revenue development strategies.** Explore the “three legged stool” approach for revenue development – government funding, private funding and fees – to build and stabilize your organization’s financial structure.
- b) **From Prison to Re-entry: Working with incarcerated parents and their families.** Community and faith based organizations offer family strengthening, marriage education, parenting and other programs during incarceration and reentry. Learn strategies to overcome challenges and how programs are working to achieve success.
- c) **Married to the Army: Supporting military families.** Military families face stressors and challenges from pre-deployment through homecoming and reintegration. Learn how organizations provide support and resources to help family and kin respond to emotional, relational, financial, physical and mental health concerns.
- d) **Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare.** Learn how two state child welfare agencies are enhancing safety and healthy father engagement. Learn about their successes, challenges and how they develop positive collaborations with fathers and community based fatherhood services.

12:30-2:30 pm

Lunch and Panel

Bringing It All Together for Successful Collaboration: What tools do I need in my toolbox?

2:30-2:45 pm

Wrap-up

Conference ends

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact:

Josie Hauer, Region I (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)

(617) 565-1123

Josephine.hauer@acf.hhs.gov

Barbara Andrews, Region II (NJ, NY, PR, VI)

(212) 264-2890 x101

Barbara.andrews@acf.hhs.gov

Darlene Tart, Region III (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)

(215) 861-4060

Darlene.tart@acf.hhs.gov

Location

Providence Biltmore Hotel <http://www.providencebiltmore.com/>

11 Dorrance St., Providence, RI 02903

(401) 421-0700

(800) 294-7709

The hotel is less than a half-mile from the Providence Amtrak railway station and is accessible from T.F. Green Airport via a shuttle service that leaves on the hour from the airport and arrives at the Biltmore 22 minutes later (\$11 each way, tickets can be purchased at the desk in the baggage claim area).

For those driving, parking options include hotel valet parking (\$15/ day, \$24/overnight) or the Convention Center Parking Garage, across from the hotel (\$13/day, \$18/overnight).

Directions

Heading South on Interstate 95

Take Exit 22A towards DOWNTOWN/PROVIDENCE, RI. Following the signs for DOWNTOWN/PROVIDENCE, continue through the first light (Memorial Boulevard). At the next light, turn right onto Exchange Street. Take the next available right onto Exchange Terrace. At the first light, bear left onto Dorrance Street, which runs directly in front of the Providence Biltmore Hotel.

Heading North on Interstate 95

Take Exit 22A towards DOWNTOWN/PROVIDENCE, RI. Make first right on Francis Street. Bear left onto Dorrance Street, which passes directly in front of the hotel.

Heading East on Route 6 or 10

Take the DOWNTOWN/PROVIDENCE Exit and bear to right. Following the signs for DOWNTOWN/PROVIDENCE, continue through the first light (Memorial Boulevard). At the next light, turn right onto Exchange Street. Take the next available right onto Exchange Terrace. At the first light, bear left onto Dorrance Street, which runs directly in front of the Providence Biltmore Hotel.

The hotel is 18 stories high, made of red brick and says BILTMORE in large red letters on the roof. In case you have any questions or problems, feel free to contact the hotel directly at (401) 421-0700 or (800) 294-7709.

2009 Northeast Family Strengthening Conference

Registration Form

Registration fee is \$145 whether attendance is for one or two days. This fee is non-refundable.

Register online at: <http://www.empoweringfamilies2009.com>

An agency may write one check for all staff that attends, but should submit separate registration forms for each attendee. The deadline for registration is May 15, 2009. Application for CEUs has been submitted to Rhode Island National Association of Social Work (RI NASW). The \$15 fee can be included with your registration or paid at the conference.

NAME: _____

First

Last

IF YOU ARE A SPEAKER/PRESENTER CHECK HERE: [☐]

AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please note individual accommodation needs (e.g., accessibility requirements, etc.):

Continuing Education Credits:

_____ I would like to receive CEUs through the RI NASW

Payment by credit card is only available through online registration:

<http://www.empoweringfamilies2009.com>

All checks should be made payable to: **Children's Friend**

Send checks to:

CHILDSPAN

Attn: Jessica Baez

500 Prospect St.

Pawtucket, RI 02860